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February 25, 2010

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Att: Docketing Dept.
P.O. Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

Reference: Docket No. 2009-489-E

I would like to voice my opposition to this pending rate increase.

SCE&G was approved for a 2.5 percent rate increase annually for the next decade, following a 4.4 percent rate hike in 2008.

The new rate hike will boost residential power bills for the average SCE&G customer by about \$140 a year by July 2011.

For Duke Power customers, the cost of 1,000 kilowatt hours is about \$93, following its recent rate increase. For SCE&G, the same level of power costs \$118. The rate boost, if granted, would put it at \$130.

SCE&G has higher rates than other investor-owned utilities, as well as publicly owned Santee-Cooper.

For those of us living on fixed retirement incomes being challenged by a dismal economy, this type of increase is intolerable.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph A. Count

1955 Bolin Road

North Augusta, SC 29841

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